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NIE 30-4-56 (?) on Middle East - plans for

23 July 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: New Estimate on the Middle East Outlook

1. As Mr. Amery may have informed you, we are initiating at his request a new NIE on "The Outlook for US Interests in the Middle East", to replace NIE 30-4-55 of the same title approved 17 November 1955. The estimate will reevaluate the situation confronting the US in the light of such factors as probable Egyptian and Soviet reactions to the transfer of Ambassador Byroade and the US decision on the Aswan Dam; Saudi attitudes as revealed in the Dhahran Airfield negotiations; recent developments in Syria and Jordan; and the state of the Arab-Israeli situation. As in the previous estimate, we plan to take into account possible US courses of action.

2. It seems preferable for us to draft the paper in staff memorandum form, without recourse to formal terms of reference and agency contributions, and to commence inter-agency coordination only after we had come up with an

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acceptable internal draft as a basis for agency consideration.
Our working plan calls for completion of coordination at the
IAC representatives level in time for the 14 August IAC
meeting.

3. We recommend that this not be discussed at the IAC
meeting tomorrow.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES:

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Lt. General, USA (Ret.)
Acting Chairman

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